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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-15 remain in the application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as conceivably applied to the amended claims.

I. Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Nicholson for the courtesies extended to Applicant's attorneys during the telephone interview conducted on March 17, 2005. In the interview, proposed claim amendments were discussed in view of the applied references. The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments define over the applied references, and suggested that the proposed amendments be presented in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination. These amendments are formally presented in this Response.

II. Invention Summary

The present invention is directed to a compression cap for connecting a conduit to a fitting. The cap has a generally cylindrical sidewall with one or more inward deformations. As defined in amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15, the sidewall of the cylindrical compression cap has a diameter that enables the cap to slide onto the conduit before the cap is compressed. The inward deformation provides a friction fit or

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an interference fit with the conduit as the cap is slid onto the conduit to aid in retaining the cap on the conduit.

III. Art Rejections

A. Section 102 Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 5,797,629 to Beagle

As originally filed, claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beagle.

Beagle discloses a hose coupling that is crimped onto a conduit to connect the conduit to a fitting. As discussed in the interview, the deformations in the hose coupling are formed only *after* the coupling is positioned on the conduit and crimped. With respect to amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15, Beagle does not disclose a sidewall having at least one inward deformation that provides a friction fit between the cap and the conduit as the cap is slid onto the conduit.

Because Beagle fails to disclose all of the elements of amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection based on Beagle under Section 102 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

B. Section 102 Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 5,722,150 to Swanson

As originally filed, claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Swanson.

Swanson discloses a deformable sleeve for connecting a conduit to a fitting. Like the device disclosed by Beagle, the sleeve deformations are created only

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after the sleeve is positioned on the conduit and crimped. With respect to amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15, Swanson fails to disclose a generally cylindrical cap with an inward deformation that provides a friction fit between the cap and the conduit as the cap is slid onto the conduit.

Because Swanson fails to disclose all of the elements of amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection based on Swanson under Section 102 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

C. Section 103 Rejection Based on Swanson in View of the Admitted Prior Art

As originally filed, claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Swanson in view of Applicant's admitted prior art in Figs. 1 and 2.

The inadequacies of Swanson with respect to the independent claims is noted above. Applicant's admitted prior art completely fails to supplement the inadequacies of Swanson. In particular, the admitted prior art does not disclose, teach, or suggest a cap having a cylindrical sidewall with an inward deformation that provides a friction fit with a conduit as the cap is slid onto the conduit.

Applicant therefore submits that the rejection of claims 5 and 12 under Section 103 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

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D. Dependent Claims

The dependent claims further define Applicant's invention and are therefore even more clearly allowable than the claims discussed above. Claim 2 further recites that the inward deformation comprises at least one rib. Claims 3 and 10 further recite that the inward deformation comprises at least one longitudinal rib. Claim 4 further recites that the deformations are approximately evenly spaced about the circumference of the sidewall. Claim 6 further recites that the shoulder extends around the entire circumference of one end of the wall. Claim 9 recites that a plurality of deformations are spaced circumferentially around the cap. Claim 11 recites that a shoulder extends radially inwardly from one end of the cap, and the conduit engages the shoulder. Claim 13 recites that a shoulder extends around the entire circumference of the first end of the cap. Claim 14 recites that a lip extends radially outwardly from a second end of the cap.

IV. Conclusion

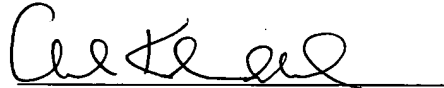
In view of the interview, the above amendments, and these remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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By: Warner Norcross & Judd LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Chad E. Kleinheksel', written over a horizontal line.

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